

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 627

By Trail

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Bob and Elizabeth Womack for nearly 50 years of laudable service to MTSU and the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as educators and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy couple is Dr. Bob Womack and his late wife Elizabeth Womack, who were recently honored when Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) named its curriculum collection the "Dr. Bob and Elizabeth Womack Curriculum Collection" in honor of their enduring legacy within the field of education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bob Womack has been a member of the MTSU faculty for 46 years, and he and Elizabeth Womack were considered a team both by their children and by the University; former State Senator Andy Womack, the eldest of the Womack children, said of his parents, "Anything my father accomplished was done with my mother's support and her endorsement. In any of his successes, they were partners in the truest sense of the word."; and

WHEREAS, all of the Womack's children graduated from MTSU. Rick owns and operates Womack Stables at Glen Oaks Farms, a premier breeding farm of Tennessee Walking Horses, and his daughter is enrolled at MTSU; Lynn teaches school at Walter Hill Elementary and has a daughter at MTSU; Lara is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at MTSU; and Andy's children, David and Dana, are MTSU graduates; and

WHEREAS, Bob Womack joined the education program at MTSU in 1957 and received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees there before earning a Doctorate from George

Peabody College in Nashville; he served as a mentor to most of MTSU's faculty members and has had a significant impact on the lives of many students at MTSU, according to Professor Jim Huffman, Chairman of the Department of Educational Leadership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Womack has had influence upon K-12 education in Tennessee, where his textbook, *Tennessee: The History of an American State*, co-authored with professors Huffman and Terry Weeks, is used in the middle grades; he also wrote the 375-page *The Echo of Hoofbeats: The History of the Tennessee Walking Horse* and *Call Forth the Mighty Men*, a 601-page history of Tennessee and the U.S. Civil War during the years 1861-1865; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Bonner, Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science, said that the naming of the collection for the Womacks "was the appropriate and honorable thing to do considering Dr. Womack's background and his invaluable contributions to the academy of educators; Professor Huffman stated that "Dr. Womack has been a tremendous asset to the educational leadership department of the university for many years. He is a master teacher and an outstanding scholar who is always investigating new topics and always has a writing project ongoing. This is one of the reasons that I think naming the curriculum collection in his and Elizabeth's honor is so very fitting."; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career as an educator, and indeed, his whole life, Dr. Bob Womack has epitomized the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; Elizabeth Womack's indomitable character and constant support made the two a matchless and effective team; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Bob Womack and his late wife, Elizabeth, for their dedication to MTSU, the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Bob and Elizabeth Womack for their

invaluable contributions to higher education, to the MTSU community, and for their meritorious service to the state of Tennessee, express our approval of the naming of the curriculum collection at MTSU in their honor, and extend to Dr. Womack our thanks and best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.